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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Identical letters dated 21 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 20 April 2016, addressed to you, from Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, regarding the violations by the Republic of Armenia of the ceasefire agreement of 5 April 2016, between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 21 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The ongoing armed conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan has resulted in the occupation of almost one fifth of the territory of Azerbaijan and has made approximately one out of every nine persons in the country an internally displaced person or a refugee. The Republic of Armenia bears the responsibility for unleashing the war and using force against Azerbaijan, occupying its territories, carrying out ethnic cleansing on a massive scale and committing other serious crimes during the conflict.

The international community has consistently deplored, in the strongest terms, the use of military force against Azerbaijan and the resulting occupation of its territories. In 1993, the Security Council adopted resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), condemning the use of force against Azerbaijan and occupation of its territories and reaffirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inviolability of its internationally recognized borders. In those resolutions, the Council reaffirmed that the Nagorno-Karabakh region is part of Azerbaijan and called for immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Other international organizations have adopted a similar position.

In total disregard of the demands of the Security Council and in flagrant violation of international law, Armenia continues to undertake efforts aimed at further consolidating the current status quo of the occupation, strengthening its military build-up in the seized territories, changing their demographic, cultural and physical character and preventing the hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijani forcibly displaced persons from returning to their homes and properties in those areas.

Moreover, regular ceasefire violations, and attacks on the towns and villages in Azerbaijan situated along the line of contact of the armed forces of Armenia and Azerbaijan and the border between the two States, have become more frequent and violent recently, resulting in the killing and injuring of many Azerbaijani civilians. The Republic of Azerbaijan has repeatedly brought its strong protests and serious concerns in that regard to the attention of the international community and has made it clear on numerous occasions that the unlawful presence of the armed forces of Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan is the main cause of tensions and incidents in the conflict zone and the major impediment to the political settlement of the conflict. The Republic of Azerbaijan has also repeatedly stated that the military occupation of its territories does not represent a solution and will never produce a political outcome desired by Armenia.

Starting in the early morning of 2 April 2016, the armed forces of Armenia increased fighting from their positions in the occupied territories, subjecting the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the line of contact and the adjacent densely populated areas under control of Azerbaijan to intensive fire with heavy artillery and large-calibre weapons. As a result of Armenia's attacks and subsequent hostilities, 34 towns and villages in Azerbaijan were shelled, and a number of Azerbaijani civilians, including children, were killed or wounded. Substantial damages were inflicted upon private and public property.

By its deliberate, offensive actions, Armenia undermined the ceasefire regime established in 1994 and endangered the prospects for the political settlement of the conflict. On 5 April 2016 in Moscow, under the mediation efforts of the Russian Federation, the ceasefire was agreed between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Despite that, Armenia continues to violate that agreement by firing at the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan and the towns and villages situated along the line of contact, using large-calibre machine guns, mortars, grenade launchers and artillery systems. A list of the ceasefire violations by Armenia since 5 April 2016 is attached (see enclosure).

The recent escalation triggered by Armenia's offensive actions represents a serious challenge to international and regional peace and security. The Republic of Azerbaijan calls upon the international community to condemn Armenia for blatant violation of international law and the ceasefire regime, to demand its strict compliance with the 5 April 2016 ceasefire commitments and to engage constructively in substantive talks on the withdrawal of its armed forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, which would thus pave the way for the further consideration of, and a solution to, remaining political issues. The conflict can be resolved only on the basis of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders. The Republic of Azerbaijan will spare no effort towards achieving the political settlement of the conflict and ensuring peace and justice in the region.

(*Signed*) Elmar **Mammadyarov**

Enclosure

Violations by the Republic of Armenia of the ceasefire agreement of 5 April 2016 between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan

5 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 115 times along various directions of the front, using large-calibre machine guns, mortars and grenade launchers, as well as artillery systems of 60, 82 and 120 millimetres (mm). As a result, 1 military serviceman was killed and 8 military servicemen were wounded.

From their positions in Berkaber village of the Ijevan district, Aygepar village of the Berd district and nameless heights in the Krasnoselsk district of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired at the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in Gizilhajili village of the Gazakh district, Alibayli village of the Tovuz district and nameless heights in the Gadabay district.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in heights near Gulustan village of the Goranboy district; Goyarkh, Yarimja and Chileburt villages of the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Bash Garvand, Javahirli, Sarijali, Kangarli, Novruzlu, Shuraabad, Marzili and Yusifjanli villages of the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village of the Khojavand district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages of the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village of the Jabrayil district, as well as in heights in the Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.

6 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 119 times along various directions of the front, using large-calibre machine guns and artillery systems. As a result, 3 military servicemen were killed and 7 military servicemen were wounded.

From their positions in Berkaber and Paravakar villages in the Ijevan district, Mosesgekh village of the Berd district and nameless heights in the Krasnoselsk district of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired at the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in Gizilhajili village of the Gazakh district, Kohnagishlag village of the Aghstafa district, Alibayli and Aghdam villages in the Tovuz district and nameless heights in the Gadabay district.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in heights near Gulustan village of the Goranboy district; Goyarkh, Yarimja and Chileburt villages of the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Bash Garvand, Javahirli, Sarijali, Kangarli, Novruzlu, Shuraabad, Marzili, Yusifjanli, Garagashli and Namirli villages of the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village of the Khojavand district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages of the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village of the Jabrayil district, as well as in the Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.

7 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 110 times along various directions of the front, using mortars of 60, 82 and 120 mm and large-calibre machine guns. As a result, 2 military servicemen were wounded.

From their positions in Berkaber and Paravakar villages of the Ijevan district, Mosesgekh and Chinari villages of the Berd district and nameless heights in the Krasnoselsk district of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired at the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in Gizilhajili village of the Gazakh district; Kohnagishlag village of the Aghstafa district; and Alibayli, Kokhnabi and Aghdam villages of the Tovuz district, as well as in nameless heights in the Gadabay district.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in heights near Goyarkh, Yarimja and Chileburt villages of the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Sarijali, Kangarli and Namirli villages of the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village of the Khojavand district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages of the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village of the Jabrayil district, as well as in the Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.

8 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 120 times along various directions of the front using mortars of 60 mm and large-calibre machine guns.

From their positions in Dovekh, Voskepar and Barekamavan villages of the Noyamberyan district, Berkaber and Paravakar villages of the Ijevan district, Aygepar village of the Berd district and nameless heights in the Krasnoselsk and Sisian districts of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired at the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in Kamarli, Mazam, Gaymagli and Gizilhajili villages in the Gazakh district; Alibayli village in the Tovuz district; and nameless heights in the Gadabay and Julfa districts.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in heights near Gulustan village of the Goranboy district; Goyarkh, Yarimja and Chileburt villages of the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Garagashli, Javahirli, Sarijali, Kangarli, Novruzlu, Shuraabad, Marzili and Yusifjanli villages of the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village of the Khojavand district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages of the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village of the Jabrayil district, as well as in heights in the Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.

9 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 125 times along various directions of the front, using large-calibre machine guns, mortars and grenade launchers of 60 mm. As a result, 1 military serviceman was wounded.

From their positions in nameless heights of Berkaber and Paravakar villages of the Ijevan district, Voskevan village of the Noyamberyan district and Mosesgekh village of the Berd district, as well as in nameless heights in the Krasnoselsk district of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired at our positions in nameless heights and Gizilhajili village of the Gazakh district, Kohnagishlag village of the Aghstafa

district, Gushchu Ayrim village of the Gazakh district, Alibayli and Aghdam villages of the Tovuz district and nameless heights in the Gadabay district.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in heights near Gulustan village of the Goranboy district; Goyarkh, Chileburt and Yarimja villages of the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Bash Garvand, Javahirli, Sarijali, Kangarli, Novruzlu, Shuraabad, Yusifjanli, Garagashli, Marzili and Namirli villages of the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village of the Khojavand district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan, and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages of the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village of the Jabrayil district, as well as heights in the Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.

10 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 117 times along various directions of the front, using large-calibre machine guns.

From their positions in nameless heights in Barekamavan village of the Noyamberyan district, Berkaber village of the Ijevan district and Mosesgekh and Chinari villages of the Berd district and nameless heights in the Krasnoselsk district of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired at the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in Mazam, Kamarli and Gizilhajili villages of the Gazakh district; Aghdam, Alibayli and Kokhanabi villages of the Tovuz district; and nameless heights in the Gadabay district.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in heights near Goyarkh, Chileburt and Yarimja villages of the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Bash Garvand, Javahirli, Sarijali, Kangarli, Novruzlu, Shuraabad, Yusifjanli and Namirli villages of the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village of the Khojavand district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages of the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village of the Jabrayil district, as well as in heights in the Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.

11 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 100 times along various directions of the front, using large-calibre machine guns and mortars of 60 mm and 82 mm.

From their positions in Paravakar and Berkaber villages of the Ijevan district and Chinari, Mosesgekh and Aygepar villages of the Berd district and from nameless heights in the Krasnoselsk district of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired at our positions in Gizilhajili village of the Gazakh district and Kohnegishlag village of the Aghstafa district, Aghbulag and Alibayli villages of the Tovuz district and nameless heights in the Gadabay district.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in heights near Chileburt and Yarimja villages of the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Bash Garvand, Javahirli, Sarijalli, Kangarli, Novruzlu, Yusifjanli and Marzili villages of the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village of the Khojavand district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages of the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village of the Jabrayil district, as well as in heights in the Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.

12 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 120 times along various directions of the front, also using mortars of 60 mm.

From their positions in Paravakar and Berkaber villages of the Ijevan district of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired at the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in Gizilhajili village of the Gazakh district and Kohnegishlag village of the Aghstafa district.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in heights near Goyarkh and Yarimja villages of the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Bash Garvand, Javahirli, Sarijali, Kangarli and Novruzlu villages of the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village of the Khojavand district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages of the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village of the Jabrayil district, as well as in heights in the Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.

13 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 132 times along various directions of the front, using large-calibre machine guns and mortars of 60 mm.

From their positions in Berkaber village of the Ijevan district and nameless heights near the Noyamberyan district and Chinari village of the Berd district and from nameless heights in the Krasnoselsk district of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired at the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in Gizilhajili village of the Gazakh district, Aghbulag and Kokhanabi villages of the Tovuz district and nameless heights in the Gadabay district respectively.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in heights near Goyarkh, Chileburt and Yarimja villages of the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Javahirli, Sarijali, Kangarli, Novruzlu, Shuraabad, Garagashli, Marzili and Yusifjanli villages of the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village of the Khojavand district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages of the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village of the Jabrayil district, as well as in heights in the Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.

14 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 110 times along various directions of the front, using mortars of 60 mm, grenade launchers and large-calibre machine guns.

From their positions in Parakavar and Berkaber villages and nameless heights of the Ijevan district; Chinari, Mosesgekh and Aygepar villages of the Berd district; and nameless heights in the Krasnoselsk district of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired at the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in Kohnagishlag village of the Aghstafa district, Gizilhajili village and nameless heights of the Gazakh district, Aghbulag and Alibayli villages and nameless heights of the Tovuz district and nameless heights in the Gadabay district.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in heights near Chileburt and Yarimja villages of the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Bash Garvand, Javahirli, Sarijali, Kangarli, Novruzlu, Namirli, Yusifjanli

and Marzili villages of the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village of the Khojavand district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages of the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village of the Jabrayil district, as well as in nameless heights in the Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.

15 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 118 times along various directions of the front.

From their positions in Berkaber village of the Ijevan district, Voskevan village of the Noyamberyan district, Chinari and Mosesgekh villages of the Berd district and from nameless heights in the Krasnoselsk district of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired at the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in Gizilhajili and Gushchu Ayrim villages of the Gazakh district; Aghdam, Alibayli and Kokhanabi villages of the Tovuz district; and nameless heights in the Gadabay district.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in nameless heights near Goyarkh, Chileburt and Yarimja villages of the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Javahirli, Sarijali, Kangarli, Novruzlu, Shuraabad, Yusifjanli, Garagashli, Marzili and Namirli villages of the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village of the Khojavand district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages of the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village of the Jabrayil district, as well as in heights in the Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.

16 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 116 times along various directions of the front, also using large-calibre machine guns.

From their positions in Berkaber village of the Ijevan district, Voskepar and Voskevan villages of the Noyemberyan district and nameless heights in the Krasnoselsk district of Armenia, the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were subjected to fire in Gizilhacili, Mazam and Gushchu Ayrim villages of the Gazakh district; Alibayli and Aghdam villages of the Tovuz district; and nameless heights in the Gadabay district.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in nameless heights in Chileburt, Yarimja and Goyarkh villages of the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Javahirli, Sarijali, Kangarli, Novruzlu, Shuraabad, Garagashli, Marzili and Yusifjanli villages of the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village of Khojavand district; and Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages of Fuzuli district, as well as from nameless heights in the Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fuzuli and Jabrayil districts.

17 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 115 times along various directions of the front, using mortars of 60 mm and large-calibre machine guns.

From their positions in Parakavan village and nameless heights of the Ijevan district, Aygedzor village and nameless heights in the Berd district and nameless

heights in the Krasnoselsk district of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired at the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in Kohnegishlaq village of the Agstafa and nameless heights in the Gazakh district, Munjuglu village of the Tovuz district and nameless heights in the Gadabay district.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in heights near Chileburt and Yarimja villages of the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Javahirli, Sarijali, Kangarli, Novruzlu, Namirli, Yusifjanli, Marzili, Garagashli and Shuraabad villages of the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village of the Khojavand district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages of the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village of the Jabrayil district, as well as in heights in the Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.

18 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 121 times along various directions of the front.

From their positions in Parakavar and Berkaber villages and nameless heights of the Ijevan district, Voskevan and Dovekh villages of the Noyamberyan district, Chinari and Mosesgekh villages of the Berd district and nameless heights in the Krasnoselsk district of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired at the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in Kohnagishlag village of the Aghstafa district; Gizilhajili, Gushchu Ayrim and Kamarli villages and nameless heights of the Gazakh district; Aghdam Alibayli and Koxanabi villages of the Tovuz district; and nameless heights in the Gadabay district.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in heights near Chileburt, Yarimja and Goyarkh villages of the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Bash Garvand, Javahirli, Sarjjali, Kangarli, Novruzlu, Namirli and Shuraabad villages of the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village of the Khojavand district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages of the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village of the Jabrayil district, as well as in nameless heights in the Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.

19 April 2016

The armed forces of Armenia violated the ceasefire 114 times along various directions of the front, also using mortars of 82 mm.

From their positions in Berkaber village of the Ijevan district, Shavarshayan and Dovex villages of the Noyemberyan district and nameless heights in the Krasnoselsk district of Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia fired at the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in Gizilhajili, Farahli and Kamarli villages of the Gazakh district and nameless heights in the Gadabay district.

The positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were also subjected to fire from positions in nameless heights near Chileburt, Yarimja and Goyarkh villages of the Tartar district; Shikhlar, Javahirli, Sarijali, Kangarli, Novruzlu, Marzili, Shuraabad, Garagashli and Yusifjanli villages of the Aghdam district; Kuropatkino village of the Khojavand district; Garakhanbayli, Horadiz, Gorgan and Ashaghi Seyidahmadli villages of the Fuzuli district; and Mehdili village of the Jabrayil district, as well as in heights in the Goygol, Goranboy, Khojavand, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts.